

REMARKS

Claims 115-153, 158-166, and 168-183 are pending in the application. New claims 184-219 are added by this Supplemental Amendment. No new matter is added and support of the new claims may be found in the Specification as follows:

Screening HCV antigenic epitopes of 100 amino acids or less is disclosed on page 50, lines 2-20 of the Specification. The same section of the Specification also discloses a preferred HCV sequence of 30 amino acids or less, which would be encoded by 90 contiguous nucleotides.

Peptides likely to contain antigenic epitopes as determined by hydrophobicity profile analysis and claimed in claim 189 are described on pages 50-52 and Figures 66, 67 of the Specification.

The antigenic HCV polypeptides of claim 204 are described in Section IV.B.8 of the Specification, and pages 150-152 and Figures 63 and 65 in particular. Claim 219 specifies five preferred polypeptides that were very immunogenic and are disclosed as such on page 150: line 31 to page 151: line 9 of the Specification.

CONCLUSION

Applicants earnestly believe that they are entitled to a letters patent on the pending claims, and respectfully solicit the Examiner to expedite prosecution of this patent application to issuance. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned. If the Examiner determines that the claims are not allowable, Applicants request an opportunity to interview the Examiner.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 223002006313.

Respectfully submitted,

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